

Members

Sen. R. Michael Young, Chairperson
Sen. Billie Breaux
Rep. James Buck
Rep. Ed Mahern
Dan Gammon
Paul Ricketts
Rick Snyder
Vince Huber
Joe Anderson
Tom Hanify
Dr. Philip Borst
Monroe Gray
Cathy Burton
John S. Myrland
A. Scott Chinn



MARION COUNTY CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: November 28, 2005
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Senate Chambers
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 6

Members Present: Sen. R. Michael Young, Chairperson; Sen. Billie Breaux; Rep. James Buck; Rep. Ed Mahern; Dan Gammon; Paul Ricketts; Rick Snyder; Vince Huber; Joe Anderson; Tom Hanify; Dr. Philip Borst; Monroe Gray; Cathy Burton; John S. Myrland; A. Scott Chinn.

Members Absent: None.

Sen. Young called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Commission members discussed the comments they submitted for possible inclusion in the Commission's final report:

Tom Hanify

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Tom Hanify discussed his written comments regarding Preliminary Draft (PD) 3554, which was proposed by Sen. Young and adopted by the Commission at the November 16 meeting. Mr. Hanify's comments are attached as Exhibit 1. After discussion, Mr. Hanify's comments were amended by the consent of the Commission and the amended comments are attached as Exhibit 2. The Commission discussed whether PD 3554 mandated the fire, emergency medical services, and safety board to take action. Mr. Hanify said that by shifting workmen's compensation to the fire, emergency medical services, and safety board and away from the common council, firefighters will lose certain benefits. A motion was made to include Mr. Hanify's amended comments in the Commission's final report. The motion failed because less than a majority of appointed members voted in favor of it.

Scott Chinn

Scott Chinn discussed written comments he submitted in conjunction with Sen. Breaux, Rep. Mahern, Monroe Gray, Joe Anderson, John Myrland and Tom Hanify, that are a response to the consultants' reports prepared by Reedy and Peters and the Indiana Policy Review Foundation (IPRF). See Exhibit 3. The Commission discussed the differences between the comments and the figures and methodology used in the consultants' reports. A motion was made to include the comments in the Commission's final report. The motion failed when less than a majority of appointed members voted in favor of it.

Sen. Young

Sen. Young discussed the proposed finding of facts he submitted to the Commission. See Exhibit 4. Mr. Anderson disagreed with the statement in the proposed finding of facts that the Commission found "no evidence to support structural consolidation [of the fire departments]," because IPRF's report said that 73% of the academics surveyed agreed that fire consolidation would improve technical efficiency. The Commission discussed and adopted a written amendment to Sen. Young's comments which is attached as Exhibit 5. The Commission voted 8 to 7 to include Sen. Young's comments in the final report. The Commission adopted the final report by a vote of 8 to 7.

Other comments; adjournment

The Commission members discussed the procedure for requesting a minority report. Scott Chinn made a statement to the Commission regarding the Commission proceedings. See Exhibit 6. John Myrland discussed the nonpartisan efforts of the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce to promote consolidation and discussed Louisville's economic development advantage because of its consolidation. Rep. Buck discussed how the Indiana General Assembly received insufficient information and had little time to decide the consolidation issue, while the Louisville consolidation took over two years of study and legislators were closely involved in the process. See Exhibit 7. He urged continuation of the research into consolidation. Joe Anderson expressed disappointment that there would be no minority report and regret at having his name attached to a recommendation that dismantles Unigov. He said they need to decide where the cost savings will go--to more politicians or to more firefighters and apparatus. Tom Hanify remarked that PD 3554 adds one more layer of government and that his proposal was a compromise he wanted included in the final report. Sen. Young said that he received no recommendations from Commission members as to potential consultants for the research studies. He remarked that his opinions, such as his support of functional consolidation, were only formed after hearing the testimony and reading the materials received in the course of the Commission meetings. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.